

State of North Carolina



MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

STRAWBERRY MONTH

2008

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the strawberry industry is part of the important agribusiness industry in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, spread all across the State, the strawberry industry accounts for approximately \$19.4 million in farm income, according to the 2007 Agricultural Statistics from North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina ranks fourth in the Nation in strawberry production with approximately 1,600 acres of strawberries harvested by farm families in almost every county of the State according to the 2007 Agricultural Statistics from North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; and

WHEREAS, the strawberry industry is part of the diversification practices by many of North Carolina's full-time farmers; and

WHEREAS, the industry also provides employment for many of our State's citizens and provides supplemental income for a number of rural families who farm on a part-time basis; and

WHEREAS, because of the technology pioneered on many of its farms, North Carolina strawberry fields serve as resources for growers from other States who come to learn the plasticulture method of growing fruits and vegetables; and

WHEREAS, because of the cooperation of strawberry producers, the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the North Carolina Agricultural Cooperative Extension Service, hundreds of "pick your own" farms, roadside markets and the traditional farm-to-market operations are flourishing across the State; and

WHEREAS, an additional result is North Carolina is recognized as a leader in strawberry research and production in the Southeast; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina strawberry is a sweet, aromatic, succulent berry, and the first sign of warm weather fruits;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MICHAEL F. EASLEY, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim May 2008, as "**STRAWBERRY MONTH**" in North Carolina and urge our citizens to support the industry.




MICHAEL F. EASLEY

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol on this twenty-fifth day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand and eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.